

APA Endnotes and Footnotes

What are Endnotes and Footnotes?

Certain academic fields and advanced-level academic papers require *endnotes* or *footnotes* to cite sources. Even though the majority of professors will not require this format of documentation, some professors may, so ask your professors for their preferences in using notes.

Disciplines that commonly use Footnotes and Endnotes:

- Art
- Theater
- Theology
- Music
- Dance
- History

APA Format for Documenting with Notes:

Footnotes and Endnotes have their own format for the documentation of sources:

- Instead of the in-text parenthetical citation used by APA, endnotes and footnotes are indicated at the end of a word or sentence by the use of small superscript numerals.
- If you use more than one notation within a page or paper, place the numerals in order (¹, ², ³) that corresponds consecutively with the respective footnotes or endnotes.
- The difference between footnotes and endnotes is determined by the location of the notes in the document and sometimes by the type of document:
 - Footnotes are placed at the bottom of each page of the main text.
 - Endnotes are collected together at the end of the main text of the paper.
- In APA format, either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable, so be sure to check with your instructor for confirmation of his or her preference. APA requires the first line of every note to be indented one half inch, just like the first line of a paragraph.

Notes as Supplements to Research

Although APA uses in-text parenthetical citations, notes can be used to supplement an APA paper with extra information. They contain expanded research to help clarify the topic. Notes can also refer readers to other pages or other sources of information regarding the topic. This information is generally too lengthy to fit reasonably into a parenthetical citation or an aside, such as a sentence within parentheses. These notes are meant to clarify the topic, NOT to be used as a formal documentation method.

Supplementary (or content) notes are generally no more than one or two sentences, though they can be longer if necessary. The general rule is to include as much information about a source as possible, so that the reader can follow up on the research. Like endnotes for documentation, APA requires supplementary notes to be numbered consecutively, with superscript numerals at the end of a word or sentence. APA requires the first line of every note to be indented one half inch, just like the first line of a paragraph.

Examples

TEXT

Whatever the historical inaccuracies,...¹⁴

APA Style

¹⁴ See Hollinger (1995), for an explanation on the lack of honesty in propositions regarding the assimilation of immigrants.

TEXT

Scientists, over many years, have observed and studied the fossils of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.¹⁵

APA Style

¹⁵ While the method of study of the Tyrannosaurus Rex provides insights to the research, this paper does not further elaborate on this species.